APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/612,730	07/01/2003	Lin-Shan Lee	LEEL121327	7721

26389   7590   07/18/2007
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EXAMINER
SMITS, TALIVALDIS IVARS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2626	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
07/18/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>2</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle,* 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-48* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *1-33 and 39-48* is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *34-38* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1.   Claims 1-33 and 39-48 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of

reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowed because it recites speech-based information retrieval in

Mandarin Chinese using as indexing terms adjacent ("overlapping") syllable segments

of a specific number of syllables in sequence ("specific length"), wherein the specific

length can be assigned arbitrarily.

While Lee-Feng Chien *et al* teach using Mandarin Chinese syllables for

information retrieval in Mandarin Chinese, they do not teach the use of syllable

sequences of arbitrary prespecified length as indexing terms to do so.

Claim 6 is allowed because it recites using Mandarin Chinese syllables

separated by at least one syllable as indexing terms for speech-based information

retrieval in Mandarin Chinese.

While Lee-Feng Chien *et al* teach using Mandarin Chinese syllables for

information retrieval in Mandarin Chinese, they do not teach the use of syllables

separated by an arbitrary prespecified number of syllables as indexing terms to do so.

Dependent claims 2-33 and 39-48 are allowed because they further limit their independent claims or their parent claims.

2.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claim Objections

3.   Claims 34-38 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend on another multiply-dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). In this instance the multiple dependence of claim 34 already includes multiple dependence on claims 12 and 14, which in turn are dependent on multiply-dependent claims 11 and 13, respectively. Accordingly, the claims 34-38 have not been further treated on the merits.

Conclusion

4.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lin-Shan Lee *et al* (ICASSP 1997) teach using syllables for Mandarin voice record retrieval.

Berlin Chen *et al* (IEEE Trans SAP, July 2002), published less than a year before the foreign priority date of the instant application, includes a portion written by the inventor, teaching his syllable-based approach to information retrieval.

John H. L. Hansen (IEEE Trans SAP, September 2005) reviews the various approaches used in spoken document retrieval from speech queries.

5.   This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters: the need to correct the multiple dependency of claim 34.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213, (Comm'r Pat. 1935).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.
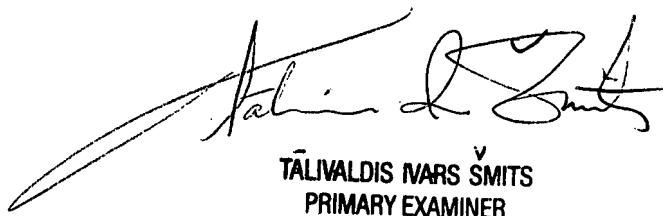
6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Talivaldis Ivars Smits whose telephone number is 571-272-7628. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on 571-272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

6/19/2007

TALIVALDIS IVARS SMITS
PRIMARY EXAMINER